

# THE DEMOCRATIC VALUES AGENDA

*An Honest and Uncompromising  
Blueprint for Connecticut*



CONNECTICUT  
**SENATE DEMOCRATS**



CONNECTICUT  
**HOUSE DEMOCRATS**



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## Supporting Middle-Class Families and Creating Economic Opportunities for Everyone

### Earned Family Medical Leave

Working families should not have to face the prospect of economic ruin when presented with serious family needs such as caring for a newborn, a spouse, or their parents. The inability of employees to take paid time off to care for loved ones or themselves can leave them with no choice but to abandon family members in their time of need, or to neglect their own health.

Because it is so necessary and beneficial to our modern workforce, Democrats will **work with employees and employers to fight for sensible earned family medical leave legislation.**



### Pay Equity

It is well past time that Connecticut ensures that women are paid the wages they deserve. Connecticut women working full time are paid 83 cents for every dollar paid to men working full time. The pay gap is even greater for African-American and Latina women.

Democrats in the General Assembly believe that it is time to eliminate the wage gap and **ensure pay equity for women** and will not compromise on this vital issue.

### A Livable Wage

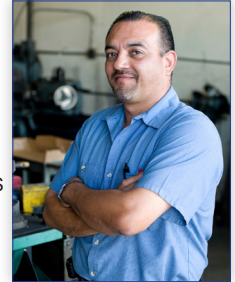
For parents trying to make ends meet, for single moms working two or three jobs just to provide basic necessities for their children, there may be no more important, pressing issue than the stability of knowing they will have a full day of work and earning a fair, adequate and 'livable' wage. We simply cannot turn our backs on Connecticut residents earning low wages. We have seen large corporations like Aetna, Cigna, Wells Fargo and Target raise minimum wages company-wide but the rest of Connecticut needs to catch up. We must do all we reasonably can to help workers support themselves and their families.



Because we value the hard work, time and labor of Connecticut's residents, Democrats in the General Assembly will **fight for a livable wage.**

### Overhaul of Our Workforce Pipeline

With companies such as Pratt & Whitney, Electric Boat and Sikorsky planning to add thousands of new jobs in the coming years, it is critical we have an efficient, effective workforce pipeline to meet the growing needs of Connecticut employers. Democrats will assess all of our workforce development programs to see what works, eliminate duplication, and **focus on Connecticut's growth industries such as advanced manufacturing.**



### Our Roads, Bridges, Rail and Buses

When Connecticut invests in our roads, bridges, rail and buses, it is investing in the economy and job growth.



Connecticut is in an economic competition against New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts and in order to win we need a modern, reliable and safe transportation system. Our transportation infrastructure has undergone great improvements recently, but there is more work to be done. We need to not only rebuild what we have but **envision transportation for the next generation that focuses on transit-oriented development** to attract millennials to our cities.

### Rebuilding our Infrastructure

We need to rebuild our transportation network so people can get to work and businesses can grow. In order to meet our transportation infrastructure needs and have out-of-state drivers help pay for our roads, the House and Senate leaders have committed to **holding a vote to implement an electronic tolling system.**





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## Opening Access to Education



### Tuition-Free Community College

The promise of a higher education shouldn't be just a dream. Higher education should be available to all hardworking Connecticut students. College graduates will earn on average more than \$1 million more in their lifetime than adults without a college degree.

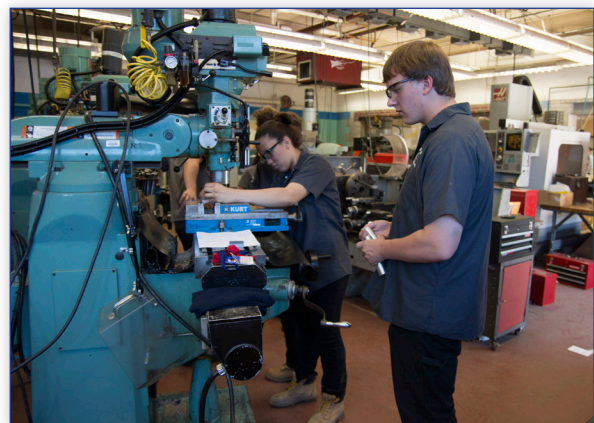
However, it has become increasingly harder for working- and middle-class families to be able to afford to send their kids to college.

That's why Democrats in the Connecticut General Assembly are proposing to **make tuition at our community colleges free for Connecticut residents**. Our workforce is the envy of the nation. There are good-paying jobs available. Electric Boat, Sikorsky, and Pratt & Whitney/United Technologies are preparing to fill a generation worth of jobs. Let's keep our kids here in Connecticut.

### Investing in Connecticut's Technical High Schools

Democrats will **propose an unprecedented investment in our technical high schools, apprenticeship programs, and community colleges**.

Democrats are proposing a partnership with the business community and manufacturers, legislation to create curriculum and open a to-be-determined number of new technical high schools to overhaul our workforce pipeline and ensure Connecticut students have the skills they need meet Connecticut's growing workforce needs.





## Protecting Women's Health Care

Republicans have attacked access to women's health care. Democrats in the General Assembly will introduce legislation aimed at protecting critical health services from federal cuts and shedding light on organizations that provide medically inaccurate information.



### 10 Essential Benefits

Democrats will **introduce a bill ensuring that health insurance plans offered in the State of Connecticut cover the "10 essential benefits" protected by the ACA.** These benefits include outpatient care as well as hospital care and trips to the emergency room, prenatal care and ongoing care for the baby throughout its childhood, prescription medicine, lab tests, as well as mental health and substance use disorder services.

### Women's Preventative Services

This session, Democrats will allow Connecticut to join a growing list of states that **protect women's access to contraception and other preventative health services with no out-of-pocket cost.** More than 746,000 women in Connecticut have gained access to birth control with no out-of-pocket costs under the ACA. There have been multiple attempts at the federal level to roll back this benefit.



### Building on the ACA's Preventative Coverage

Legislation to be introduced this year will **expand on the progress in reproductive health made by the ACA by expanding coverage for contraception.** This new legislation will expand coverage for contraception to include 12-month prescription coverage and emergency contraception with no co-pay.

### Shedding Light on "Crisis Pregnancy Centers"

Crisis pregnancy centers are organizations that attempt to look like legitimate family planning clinics, while actually providing medically inaccurate, anti-choice information. They target urban neighborhoods and other medically underserved communities where people do not have access to a regular gynecologist. Democrats will **introduce legislation to ensure that people seeking health care advice about a pregnancy are not lied to or shamed by staff at "crisis pregnancy centers"** seeking to further a political agenda.



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## Keeping Connecticut Residents Healthy and Protecting Our Hospitals



Democrats stand united in the belief that health care is a right not a privilege. When a person is sick they should be able to see a doctor and get the prescription drugs they need. Democrats in the General Assembly will propose legislation to reduce prescription drug costs, guarantee access to health care, and get our premiums under control.

### A Strong and Affordable Health Care System

The health care system should work for patients. When you are sick, you should be able to see a doctor and get the prescription drugs you need. Democrats will **propose legislation to reduce prescription drug costs.**

### Supporting our Community Hospitals

Our community hospitals are vital health care providers, major employers and bioscience incubators. Democrats in the House and Senate will **work to support and grow our hospitals and ensure that all residents have access to quality medical care.**



### Protecting our Natural Resources

With concern growing regarding Connecticut's water, air and other natural resources, Democrats in the General Assembly will **call for a full and public vetting of issues surrounding Connecticut's natural resources to ensure that they are properly protected and preserved** for the people—not for businesses.

### Addressing the Opioid Epidemic

Despite the expansion of access to treatment and other substantial policy achievements, the opioid epidemic continues to grip Connecticut. More than 1,000 Connecticut residents died from opioid-related overdoses in 2017—more than from car accidents, homicides and suicides combined. Democrats pledge to continue to work with medical professionals and experts to preserve the gains already made and **further expand access to treatment.**







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## Preserving Our Democracy



### National Popular Vote

Democrats in the General Assembly reject the notion that the citizens of the United States, in the year 2018, cannot be trusted to directly elect their president. Instead, Democrats believe in the direct election of the president by popular vote—that the winner of the presidency should be the candidate who gets the most votes in the election. Once again, Democratic members will **introduce legislation allowing Connecticut to join the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact**.



### Equal Access to the Ballot Box

With voting rights under attack across the nation, now more than ever Connecticut needs to **protect everyone's right to participate in our democracy**. College campuses are where students get their housing, work, education, and meals—it is time that they also serve as a place where they can cast a ballot.

### Increasing Participation Through Early Voting

Democrats believe increased voter participation is good for our democracy, and an early voting process leading up to Election Day would be an important step toward this goal. Democrats will **propose a constitutional resolution on early voting** in an effort toward having it appear as a question on the statewide ballot.